



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

**Wildlife
Services**

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WILDLIFE SERVICES—UTAH

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USDA Resolves Wildlife Conflicts in Utah

Each day, residents, industries, organizations and cooperating agencies call on the Utah Wildlife Services (WS) program for help in protecting agriculture, human health and safety, natural resources, and property from damage or threats posed by wildlife. WS' professional wildlife biologists respond to these requests with effective, selective, and humane strategies to resolve wildlife conflicts.

WS works to protect property and reduce human health and safety risks at airports, schools, and along roadways. The program also protects people, pets, and property within the urban Wasatch Front from wildlife-borne diseases and damage caused by raccoons and skunks; protects vulnerable natural resources, such as mule deer or endangered species from wildlife depredation; and educates the public about wildlife and wildlife damage management. Specific projects conducted by Utah WS include, protecting endangered black-footed ferrets and prairie dogs from predation; conducting an urban wildlife damage program to reduce conflicts in Salt Lake County, sampling and monitoring for sylvatic plague and reducing the risks to civilian and military aircraft caused by wildlife at airports.

Applying Science & Expertise to Wildlife Challenges

Utah WS is uniquely positioned within the State to assist livestock producers, industries and our cooperating agency partners with wildlife damage issues. Professional wildlife biologists and trained technicians provide *direct assistance* when wildlife damage requires special skills or when significant biological questions regarding the damage



arise. *Direct assistance* involves assessment of the problem, application of safe and humane control technology and monitoring to assure the problem has been adequately addressed.

Protecting Agricultural Crops—Utah WS assists crop producers manage damage caused by migratory birds through demonstrations of effective methods, the loan of equipment and supplies to prevent losses and the application of new methods where and when practical. Utah WS has pioneered the use of supplemental feeding to avert corn damage caused by Sandhill Cranes in the spring, averting thousands of dollars in damage for farmers.

Protecting Livestock—Utah WS conducts predation management for livestock protection Statewide. The major predators of domestic sheep and cattle include coyotes, cougars and black bears. The successful restoration of gray wolves in the Northern Rockies has led to livestock conflicts in Utah from wolves as well. Because of the sensitivity of predator populations to control methods, all livestock protection is conducted by wildlife damage professionals utilizing proven methods and is coordinated with partner agencies, including the Utah Division of Wildlife, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service.

Protecting Human Health and Safety at Airports—Utah WS assists Salt Lake International Airport manage the risks associated with wildlife strikes at the airport by training airport staff in the management of wildlife populations, by directly conducting the removal of wildlife when a threat is immanent, and by monitoring wildlife populations near the airport. Utah WS also conducts wildlife identification courses for other airports and assists airport and urban planners to

Top 5 Major Assistance Activities:

- Protecting livestock from predation by coyotes, black bears, cougars and, recently, wolves
- Protecting civil and military aviation from wildlife strikes
- Protecting human safety and property from wildlife damage in the urban/wildland interface
- Protecting native wildlife from excessive predation
- Protecting endangered species during recovery efforts

Top 5 WS Research Projects of Interest to Utah:

- Improving methods to manage livestock predation
- Defining and reducing wildlife hazards to aviation
- Predator-prey ecology
- Evaluating waterfowl as disease, and parasite reservoirs
- Managing rabies and raccoon roundworm transmission

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